



DAMAGES

The reports available on the damage to forest and property are conflicting, incomplete and inaccurate.

The summary report fro the National Forests of Region One shows the following:

- Number of fires – 1,736, of which 233 were lightning
- Area burned – 2,595,635 acres
- National Forest timber destroyed – 5,408,641 M value - \$13,470,906
- Total cost of firefighting to Government - \$795,281

Outside the National Forests the figures are probably very incomplete and inaccurate, but show:

- Area burned: 512,184 acres
- Timber destroyed – 2,241,119 M

It is probable that the area burned in Montana and Northern Idaho was over three million acres and that seven to eight billion feet of merchantable timber was destroyed. Reports on damage to property are very incomplete. About one-third the city of Wallace was burned, DeBorgia, Haugan and Tuscor, all small towns, were entirely burned. The Forest Service probably lost six or seven strings of pack stock; and a large number of horses, cattle, pigs and chickens belonging to homesteaders and lumber complainers were burned. The Forest Service lost at least four ranger stations. Damage to mine building and tunnels, particularly in the Coeur d’Alene Region, was great. The toll of human lives had probably been accurately determined as follows:

Firefighters:	
Coeur d’Alene (including St. Joe)	72
Cabinet	4
Pend Oreille	2
Civilians:	
Wallace	2
Taft	1
Prospector at head of St. Joe River	1
Homesteaders below Newport	3
Total	85

The greatest loss of valuable timber was on the St. Joe, particularly on Big Creek, Slate Creek and the Little North Fork. At the time of the fire the Milwaukee Lumber Company was constructing a railroad up Big Creek to log 100 million feet of white pine just purchased from the National Forest at \$4 per M, besides a number of private claims. All of this was burned – one of the finest bodies of white pine in Idaho – but was partly salvaged.

On the upper St. Regis River, 99 million feet had just been advertised and bid at \$4.50 per M, but the contract not executed. Most this was burned, but later partly salvaged.

The Coeur d'Alene lost much fine timber on the Upper North Fork. The damage on the upper Clearwater never was accurately known, but many million feet of fine, but inaccessible white pine were burned.

Excerpt from the collection of "When The Mountains Roared", (page 44-46) USDA Forest Service